

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 1, 2005 has been considered and carefully studied.

Applicants note the allowance, or indication of allowability, of claims 6-15.

Various amendments to the claims to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been made. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Entry of the amendment is in order because the amendments merely address and cure the formal matters raised in connection with the rejections under 24 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 2. The amendment does not require consideration of new issues or a new search.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2 and 16 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Harari et al. (U.S. Patent 6,381,662).

The Examiner asserts that Harari discloses an adapting element 10 for at least one programmable electronic holder 20 to be personalized, wherein element 10 has (1) a surface size larger than that of all programmable electronic holders to be personalized and meeting the size accepted by a personalization machine 200, and (2) a housing having a shape and size to house and maintain at least one programmable electronic holder. The Office Action also alleges element 10 includes a first communication means for enabling element 10 to receive personalization data, via a contact or contactless link, from a personalization device of the personalization machine 200, and a second communication means for enabling the element to transmit personalization data to the programmable electronic holder 20 via a contact or contactless link and capable of functioning as claimed. In making this rejection, the Examiner

says (1) the personalization machine is the Harari host computer, (2) the claimed adapting element is the mother card portion, and (3) the claimed electronic holder is the daughter card portion.

Column 3, lines 13-16 of Harari indicates the general object is to provide a peripheral in the form of a PC card that can be removably connected to a host system from outside of the host system. The Harari document describes communication between a memory and a personal computer having a PCMCIA interface.

Claim 1 now distinguishes over Harari by requiring the programmable electronic holder to be personalized in a personalization machine, and the adapting element to be of a size for enabling it to be received by the personalization machine which enables the adapting element to be driven in the personalization machine.

Harari et al. does disclose a mother card which can be driven in the host system. The mother card is external to the host system. As a result, the claimed adapting element cannot be equated to the mother card of Harari. Because Harari et al. does not take into account a personalization machine equating the host system of Harari with the personalization machine of the claim 1 is not appropriate.

Claim 16 now includes the "enabling the adapting element to be driven in the personalization machine" limitation that has been added to claim 1. Harari does not disclose a mother card which could be driven in the host system. Therefore, the claimed adapting element cannot be equated to Harari mother card. Furthermore, the mother card of Harari is external, to the host system, and therefore cannot be equated to the claimed adapting element.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 3-5 as being unpatentable over Harari et al., in view of Fehrman et al., U.S. Patent 6,193,163. Fehrman discloses, at column 7, lines 17-18, a body having a cutout portion for receiving a semiconductor chip assembly. The examiner asserts that Fehrman discloses an adapting element wherein the communication means is a contactless link via an antenna, and that it would have been obvious to have used the communication means taught by Fehrman in Harari, and that data can be transferred without having to make direct electrical contact with the adapting element, electric holder and personalization machine. The Examiner says it would have been obvious to Harari to combine Fehrman as a result.

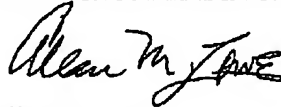
Such a combination involves replacing the mother card of Harari with the body of Fehrman, and replacing the daughter card of Harari with the chip assembly of Fehrman. Fehrman does not disclose a body with any communication device for enabling a communication link with the body. On the contrary, Harari discloses a daughter card with a communication device. The Harari description indicates the mother card is connected to the PC via a standard 68-pin connector, and the mother card is connected to the daughter card via a connector with a smaller number of pins; see column 6, line 65 – column 7, line 5. Claims 3-5 require an antenna that allows the adapting element to communicate by a contactless link with the programmable electronic holder. Consequently, the mother card of Harari et al. is not identical to the adapting element of the present invention. As such, combination of Harari and Fehrman is not appropriate.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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